AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A process for preparing optically active aldehydes or ketones which have from 3 to 25 carbon atoms and at least one racemizable stereocenter by in the α and/or β position relative to the carbonyl group catalytic dehydrogenation of the corresponding optically active primary or secondary alcohols in the gas phase in the presence of a catalyst, comprising zinc and calcium in oxidic form and/or in form of their carbonates.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprising zinc oxide and calcium carbonate is used.

4. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst whose active component comprises from 30 to 60% by weight of zinc oxide and from 40 to 70% by weight of calcium carbonates is used.

5. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein the calcium carbonate is present in the calcite modification.

6. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1 for preparing branched or unbranched open-chain or monocyclic aldehydes or ketones.

7. (cancelled) The process according to claim 1 for preparing aldehydes or ketones which have a stereocenter in the α and/or β position relative to the carbonyl group.

8. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1 for preparing optically active 2-methylbutan-1-al, 3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-al, 3,7-dimethyloctan-1-al, 8-p-menthen-3-one, p-menthan-3-one, 2-methylcyclohexanone, 3-methylcyclohexanone, 2-methylcyclopentanone, 3-methylcyclopentanone, 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone or 2,3-dimethylcyclohexanone.

9. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1 for preparing optically active citronellal from optically active citronellol.

10. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the enantiomeric excess (ee) of the aldehyde or ketone obtained corresponds to at least 90% of the enantiomeric excess of the alcohol used.

11. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the dehydrogenation is carried out at a temperature in the range from 250 to 600°C.

12. (Currently amended) A process for preparing optically active menthol which comprises the preparation of optically active citronellal according to claim 1, and followed by cyclization of said citronellal ~~prepared according to claim 1~~ to form isopulegol and subsequent hydrogenation.

13. Cancelled

14. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein the catalyst comprising zinc oxide and calcium carbonate is used.

15. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the catalyst-whose active component comprises from 30 to 60% by weight of zinc oxide and from 40 to 70% by weight of calcium carbonates is used.

16. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 15, wherein the calcium carbonate is present in the calcite modification.

17. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 16 for preparing branched or unbranched open-chain or monocyclic aldehydes or ketones.

18. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 17 for preparing aldehydes or ketones which have a stereocenter in the α and/or β position relative to the carbonyl group.

19. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 18 for preparing optically active 2-methylbutan-1-al, 3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-al, 3,7-dimethyloctan-1-al, 8-p-menthen-3-one, p-menthan-3-one, 2-methylcyclohexanone, 3-methylcyclohexanone, 2-methylcyclopentanone, 3-methylcyclopentanone, 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone or 2,3-dimethylcyclohexanone.